<u>**REMARKS**</u>

With this Response, claims 1, 3, 11, 15 and 18 are amended. No claims are added. No claims are cancelled. Therefore, claims 1-22 are pending.

<u>**RESPONSE TO AMENDMENT FILED DECEMBER 18, 2007**</u>

The Office Action mailed April 30, 2008 indicated the reply filed on December 18, 2007 was not fully responsive to the prior Office Action because Applicant did not respond to the following:

1) Claim objection with regard to claims 3

2) 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of claims 18-22

Applicant appreciates the Examiner's diligence in noting these oversights and provides a response herein.

Because, under 37 C.F.R. §1.111, a supplemental reply correcting informalities will be entered as a matter of right, additional amendments to claims 1, 11 and 15 are presented to provide proper antecedent basis in these claims. Specifically, occurrences of "the root of the second subset" are amended to read "a node of the second subset."

<u>**CLAIM OBJECTIONS**</u>

Claim 3 was objected to for reciting "the selected default" without sufficient antecedent basis. The term "selected" is removed from the claim to provide proper antecedent basis. Applicant therefore requests removal of the Office's objection to claim 3.

<u>Claim 18</u>

Independent claim 18 is amended to clarify the hierarchical structure of the "data object means" and to include language describing how the hierarchical configuration data object means is used to determine configuration data of a particular server node means is out-of-date.

Specifically, claim 18 is amended to recite a data object means…

> "accessible by the plurality of server node means and including a first
> subset of nodes containing configuration data associated with all server node
> means and a second subset of nodes containing configuration data specific to all
> server node means within a first instance"

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This amended language pertaining to the hierarchical arrangement of a configuration data object is taught by Applicant in the embodiment depicted in Figure 5 and as further described in paragraphs [0036]-[0039].

Claim 18 further recites a configuration managing means ...

> "to determine whether the configuration data stored on the server node means is out-of-date based on a location of an updated configuration parameter within the hierarchical representation, wherein updated configuration parameters within the first subset of nodes renders all server node means out-of-date and updated configuration parameters within the second subset of nodes renders all server node means of the first instance out-of-date"

This amended language is supported by paragraph [0045].

In contrast, San Andres merely discloses a hierarchical view of a network's content (paragraph [0005], Fig. 2) and does not disclose use of such a view to determine whether configuration data stored on any server node of the network is out of date. Applicant submits Dardinski fails to cure this deficiency of San Andres. Thus, Applicant submits claim 18 is allowable over San Andres and Dardinski. On this basis, Applicant requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of independent claim 18. For at least these same reasons, Applicant requests removal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of dependent claims 19-22.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully requests examination of the above-identified application in view of the response.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections of the claims have been overcome herein, placing all pending claims in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the above-identified application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge or credit any deficiencies or overpayments in connection with this submission to Deposit Account No. 02-2666, and is requested to notify us of same.

Respectfully submitted,
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